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The Northern papers, with hardly an exception, admit the severity of the disaster to the Federal arms at Fredericksburg. They are, generally, very outspoken on the subject, blaming the plan of the campaign, and, many of them, affirming that the fault lies in Washington, and that Gen. Burnside and his principal officers only obeyed instructions which they disapproved. No one seems to know what will be the next move, either of the Federal or Confederate army, though it is thought that matters cannot remain, as at present, for many days.

The blowing up of the U. S. steam gunboat Cairo, in the Yazoo river, by means of a torpedo, is the first successful use of the torpedo, by either side, that we have seen recorded.

A number of wounded soldiers, from the late battle at Fredericksburg, reached here today, being brought up in steamboats from Aquia Creek.

There are indications of a change of weather, and of snow.

Street beggars are making their appearance in large numbers in Washington.

Some twenty-four prisoners are still confined in Fort Delaware.

By the way of Nashville, Tenn., we have brief Southern accounts of the battle of Saturday. Gen. Lee telegraphed to Richmond that the Federal army was repulsed at all points. A dispatch to the press states that the Confederate losses were estimated at not more than five hundred killed and twenty-five hundred wounded. Gen. Thomas Cobb was among the killed.

The Boston Post says:—"There has not been so gloomy a feeling manifested since the terrible days succeeding Bull Run as was apparent in Boston yesterday afternoon. Sorrow and apprehension were upon every countenance. Yet there is no blame cast upon the brave Burnside and his heroic men, who seemed to have marched into the jaws of death as dauntlessly as if merely on parade."

In the case of Russell Sturges, against Spofford & Tileston, for commission as agents between plaintiff and defendants to negotiate the employment of the ship Marion as a transport at New York, the jury were unable to agree.—The vessel was engaged by the Government at \$1,000 a day, with the privilege of purchasing her at the expiration of the first voyage for \$100,000; but it appears that the vessel was employed for one hundred and sixty-eight days, for which \$168,000 were paid, and the vessel was returned to the owners. Thus the Government has been mulcted in paying \$68,000 and the loss of the vessel.

The Abolition Journals begin more and more to show unfriendliness to Mr. Seward.

The New York Times says:—"The battle of Saturday was a far greater action than had been supposed—in fact, it was in most respects the greatest battle of the war—the whole of Burnside's army (excepting the column of Sigel up the river,) was engaged; and, we are sorry to say, it shows that we met with a repulse, but temporary in its effects we believe, but still very much more grievous, general, and disastrous than we have been officially led to suppose."

The orders for the Censor of the telegraph dispatches, now forbid him to pass any army news, save the casualties, without the endorsement of General Burnside. He is also required to scan the newspaper reports in private.

The army correspondent of the New York Times says:—"The loss in General Sumner's grand division will not, probably, exceed 7,000. About 10,000 are missing to-night, but it is thought 2,000 or 3,000 have managed to straggle off with the wounded."

A gunboat skirmish occurred on Stono river, below Charleston, on Sunday last. Some fifty shells were fired at the Confederate pickets on James Island, and the gunboat then retired.

Dispatches from North Carolina state that Gen. Foster, with fifteen thousand Federal troops and nine gunboats, attacked Kingston on last Saturday, and after an engagement lasting two hours, retired to the gunboats, but remained still in front of the Confederate position.

Gen. Kenly has arrived with his brigade at Harper's Ferry, and assumed command of that post. General Kelly is at Martinsburg, and has command of the whole line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from Harper's Ferry to Wheeling.

Advices from Bermuda to the 14th inst. announce the presence in that port of five English steamers loaded with arms and munitions of war for the Confederates, preparing to run the blockade.

Rev. Mr. French, in an address delivered at the Capitol, on his recent mission to the "contrabands" on the Southern coast, stated that "the President, in a conversation with him, had expressed doubts whether his proclamation had gone into the Confederates more than skin deep."

Several regiments encamped around New York during the last two weeks, and which were destined to join Banks's expedition, have been ordered to Washington.

On Friday last the Federal gunboat Cairo, while passing down the Mississippi, below the mouth of the Yazoo, was blown up by a submarine torpedo. No lives were lost, but the boat is a total wreck, and cannot be raised.

The Deficiency bill, reported in Congress yesterday, appropriates nearly \$110,000,000; the Pension bill \$7,500,000.

A committee of the U. S. Senate to investigate the disaster, went to Fredericksburg last evening.

The N. Y. Post says:—"The rotten transports in which part of General Banks's expedition left this port, are reported from day to day as having put into different harbors in distress."

The U. S. Government has just completed a beautiful suspension bridge across the Shenandoah, and another pontoon bridge is building across the Potomac, which is indicative that the Government is resolved to hold on this point.

Archbishop Hughes severely censures the secret societies in Ireland, attributing to their existence many of the calamities which have befallen Irishmen.

A considerable force of Confederate cavalry is said to be in the vicinity of Jackson, Tenn., supposed to be under the command of Gen. Morgan. Preparations have been made by the Federal commanders to resist an attack.

A clerk in the Indian Office has invented a new method of filing and preserving business papers, which entirely revolutionizes the old red-tape system. It consists of a compact folding box, so arranged that the papers may be examined by their titles without removing them from the box. It is dust, mouse and moisture-proof.

All speculation in regard to the destination of the Banks expedition is now at an end, as it is ascertained definitely that it is destined to operate in the Department of the Gulf.

The keel for another U. S. Government side-wheel steamer has just been laid in Boston. She is intended for service in the Southern rivers, and will be two hundred and forty feet long, thirty-five feet wide and twelve feet deep.

Several hundred wounded soldiers arrived in Washington, on boats yesterday, and were distributed among the various hospitals.

The hospital at Point Lookout, Maryland, is full. Chas. Wagner, Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A., in charge.

Twelve hundred sick and slightly wounded soldiers will leave Washington to-day for New York, and 400 for Baltimore.

Mrs. Secretary Smith has ordered, from New York, \$1,000 worth of turkeys and chickens for the soldiers' Christmas dinners.

An adjournment of Congress on Tuesday next for a fortnight, is favored by numerous members.

The army appropriation bill makes an appropriation of seven hundred and thirty-two millions.

The report that Gen. McClellan has been called to Washing by the President, is said to be entirely unfounded.

Generals Strong and Busted have been relieved from duty in New York, and ordered to report for duty, the former to General Grant in the Department of the Tennessee, and the latter to General Dix at Fortress Monroe.

The Government has contracted for twenty thousand barrels of flour at St. Louis, at prices ranging from \$4 60 to \$5 14 per barrel.